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For immediate release

Expansion of Mason Clinic site announced

Waitematā DHB has announced the purchase of a significant block of additional land that will enable expansion of the Mason Clinic in Point Chevalier, a forensic mental health facility that serves the entire Northern Region.

Waitematā DHB's CEO Dr Dale Bramley confirmed the Mason Clinic's footprint will expand by 2.8 hectares.

"There is constant pressure on our existing services at the Mason Clinic and this land purchase allows us to plan with certainty for future developments that will increase capacity and meet the needs of a growing population for the next 50 years," says Dr Bramley.

"We look forward to working with the Government to prioritise the development of extra forensic mental health service capacity in the Northern Region and thank them for this very important investment into mental health services."

Health Minister Hon David Clark says the land purchase is an important step forward in ensuring a high standard of care for forensic mental health patients into the future.

"The Mason Clinic looks after some of our most difficult and vulnerable patients. It's important they are cared for well, for their own good and for that of the wider community.

"I look forward to making further announcements about this important project next year," says Mr Clark.

The land purchase is in addition to an extensive programme of facility upgrades underway across the Mason Clinic site, which includes a new \$22 million, 15-bed medium secure unit that is expected to open in late 2020. A 15-bed unit Te Aka opened in 2017.

The redevelopment of the Mason Clinic, including the provision of additional capacity, is consistent with the Northern Region Long Term Investment Plan, National and Regional Mental Health Services Strategies. It also contributes to wellbeing under the Government's Living Standards Framework.

Mason Clinic is operated by Waitematā DHB and serves the populations of the four Northern Region DHBs (Northland, Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau), which collectively total 1.9 million people.

It has 114 mental health beds and 12 forensic intellectual disability beds and also provides a base for all other Auckland Regional Forensic Service operations.

The site includes medium secure, minimum secure and open units to facilitate recovery and community reintegration, with a focus on acute treatment and rehabilitation. Mental health services have been on the site since the 1870s.

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About Waitematā DHB

Waitematā DHB serves the largest population of any district health board in New Zealand, currently standing at more than 639,000 people. We have a workforce of more than 7,500 staff spread across more than 80 sites, including North Shore Hospital and Waitakere Hospital. We are also the Northern Region provider of forensic psychiatry and child disability services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.